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16 October 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT : COMIREX Proposal for Change in Restrictions
on BLACK SHIELD

REFERENCE : COMIREX-D-25.7/2 dated 12 October 1967

1. I agree with you that subject proposal is not ready for a USIB meeting and should not be placed on the forthcoming agenda unless one of the other members particularly wants it on the agenda.

2. I have discussed the requirement with ADD/I and the operational aspects with Chief, OSA. With regard to the former I agree with the State position taken in COMIREX to the effect that "it does not appear that a case has yet been made for OXCART coverage to be accorded an over-riding priority" in the South China border area. With regard to the latter it does not appear that there are any operational considerations that are sufficiently troublesome at this time to justify a change in current restrictions. Specifically, the track convergence in both northwest Vietnam and in the Tonkin Gulf do not as yet seriously increase vulnerability nor do they impose any insurmountable tactical problems.

3. In view of the above, and unless the Director, DIA or some other member of USIB were to make a more compelling case, I would feel compelled to urge that the proposed change not be approved.

/S/ Rufus Taylor

NRO review(s) completed.

Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Director

cc: Executive Secretary, USIB
Chairman, COMIREX
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